THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Proposals for changes in tax laws relating to various industries, including shipping are considered every year during the annual Budgetary Exercise and the decision of the Government is reflected in the Finance Bill.

Growth Rate of GDP

2013. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance is non-committal about the budgetary support envisaged in the Tenth Plan for achieving 8 per cent growth in GDP;

(b) if so, what is the proposed budgetary support; and

(c) what is the likely support proposed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Planning Commission has proposed a budgetary support of Rs. 1,34,064 crore for the Annual Plan 2003-04 as against the budgetary support of Rs. 1,13,500 crore for the current year's (2002-03) Annual Plan in order to achieve an average annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 8 per cent. Government's proposal in this regard will be placed before the Parliament for consideration alongwith the annual budget 2003-04.

Shortage of Coins in Gujarat

2014. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coins of small denominations such as rupee one, two and five are issued by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of coins in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to overcome the problem; and

(d) the details of coins supplied to the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of rupee coins distributed in the State of Gujarat during the past three years is as under:

(In million pieces)

Year (July-June)	Re.1	Rs.2	Rs.5	Total
1999-2000	42.00	9.70	23.08	74.78
2000-2001	48.70	39.00	29.42	117.12
2001-2002	196.50	114.60	88.64	399.74

Vacant posts in customs department

2015. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that important posts in the Customs Department are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details of the Group A posts that are lying vacant and the time since when they are lying vacant togetherwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Ministry of Finance to fill the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 746 Group 'A' posts of the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service were vacant on 30.11.2002 including the posts created due to restructuring of the Central Board of Excise and Customs which came into force on 01.11.2002. These vacancies have occurred on